

8<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Joanne Duncan, MP,  
State Member for Macedon,  
Shop 14/9 Goode Street,  
Gisborne 3437.

Dear Joanne,

Thanks for taking the time to talk to my wife Janet and me on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009. As agreed at the meeting, the purpose of this letter is to record two concerns:

- a) the lack of street lighting and excessive speed limit at the New Gisborne Calder Freeway intersection and
- b) uncertainty regarding the extent of proposed improvements of the Calder Park Drive / Calder Freeway Intersection and other sections of Freeway towards Diggers Rest.

**a) Lack of street lighting and excessive speed limit at the New Gisborne Calder Freeway intersection (C708).**

I wrote to the Macedon Ranges Shire with this concern last year. Unfortunately I have misplaced the unsupportive and unsatisfactory reply I received. I have tried unsuccessfully to get another copy of the letter from the Shire. Basically the Shire stated that the intersection was ***“safer unlit as drivers would be more likely to drive slower through it than if it were lit”***! You can form your own opinion on this incredible theory. You will recall I expressed mine when we met!

The problem is the complete lack of street lighting throughout the length of Station Road under the Freeway. There is an urgent need for lighting from Cherry Lane to the Saunders Road intersection, combined with a reduction of the speed limit from 70kph to 60 kph. The combination of right turn manoeuvres to/from the Freeway through this section of road, with no lighting and 70 kph speed limit is hazardous. Our local population continues to grow. We should not have to wait for the inevitable serious or fatal traffic incident before the problem of no street lighting and excessive speed limit is addressed. Vic Roads probably has criteria that support a 70 kph speed limit. If so, it is flawed and needs review. Please note that I make this observation from a position of experience. Earlier in my civil engineering career I practiced as a road design engineer and was accredited by Vic Roads as a road safety auditor when employed by the former Shire of Bulla. A frustration to the above argument (and contradiction of the Shire's opinion that unlit intersections are safer) is the superb street lighting that was installed as part of the original freeway project at the Calder Freeway/ Gisborne South Intersection. This currently only serves to illuminate adjacent paddocks for the benefit of grazing cattle!